

# ParKids

## Spring / Summer

### 2003



## Table of Contents

- 1 Front cover by Marina Calderon
- 2 Table of Contents
- 3 Owl Pellets
- 4 Learning About Fossils
- 5 Learning About Karst
- 6 ParKids Visit Frijole Ranch
- 7 Hiking to Smith Springs
- 8 Back cover by Joey Orona



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### Art Credits:

Front cover by Marina Calderon; permian ocean (top) on page 2 by Sheri Moore; desert silhouette (bottom) on page 2 by Amanda Ortega; permian ocean on page 4 by Billy Aguilar; karst on page 5 by Amanda Ortega; back cover by Joey Orona

### Photography:

Frijole Ranch on page 6 by Sara Walker; all other photographs by Wendy Krasnauskas

Layout, typing, editing, publishing: Wendy Krasnauskas

### Riddles by Zach Cassell

I run 15 miles per hour.  
I eat insects, lizards, toads,  
and snakes.  
I am a bird. What am I?

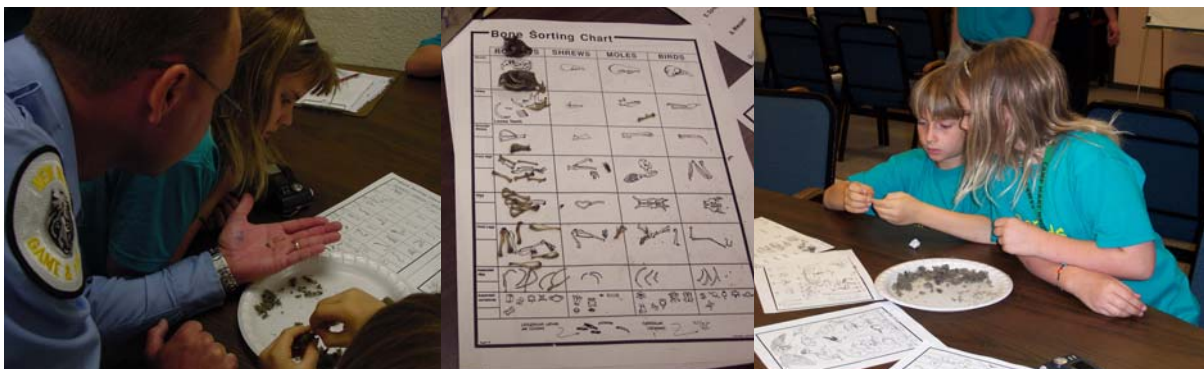
I am a small.  
I have long legs.  
I also have white eyebrows.  
What am I?

I can grow to 5 inches.  
I have a stinger armed tail.  
I have eight legs.  
I also have strong pinchers.

Answers on page 7







## ***Owl Pellets***

At ParKids we looked through owl pellets to see what the owls ate. Michael Perry and I are looking at two bones to see what this owl ate. We found out that the owl probably ate a rodent called a vole. The owl regurgitates the bones that he cannot digest.

*By Barbara Speed*

Owl pellets are what owls throw up after they eat. At the living desert National Park two men helped us take apart owl pellets to see what they ate last time. So we pulled apart the pellets and mostly found voles (type of mice) if you find an owl pellet never pick it up because it may have bantavirus which can only be carried by mice.

*By Joey McCorry*

We were at the Living Desert with Ben and Mike who are with the New Mexico game and fish. We were learning about animals in the desert. We learned about raptors by dissecting owl pellets. Owls throw up 1 pellet every 18 to 24 hours. In a owl pellet you can find bones from voles, rats, birds, and bats. It made me feel interested in learning about animals.

*By William Weldy*



## ***Learning About Fossils***



On June 10, 2002, the ParKids went to Slaughter Canyon. There was a ranger named Greg. He taught us about Geology. We learned that Slaughter Canyon was an ocean because of all the fossils found. Some of the fossils found were: gastropods, crinoids, sponges, and brachiopods.

*By Alesia Ortega*

This is the ParKids. We were looking at this really cool rock that looked like a shell. It was really neat. We looked at this with Michael Haynie, on June 11, 2002.

McKittrick Canyon is a great place to find fossils because 250 million years ago this area was once an ocean that slowly disappeared. That is why we have fossils in the McKittrick Canyon and Slaughter Canyon.

*By Amanda Ortega*

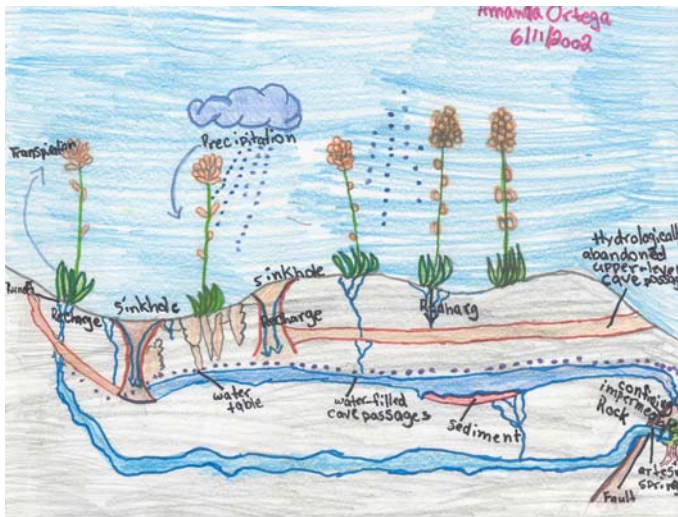
### **Guadalupe Mountains** *by Peter Ortegel*

The Guadalupe Mountains first started out under water and after millions of years the mountains were formed by lots and lots of bones that were in the bottom of the ocean but we call them fossils. But all of the geologists call them limestone. So after about one thousand more years it all dried up and that's how it is now.





# Learning About Karst



## How Karst Forms by Sheri Moore

Water eats away bedrock. It eats away so much it forms a cave. Gypsum, limestone, dolomite, and marble are less soluble and require acidic water. When it rains on a cave the water dissolves the rock and it will fall in. But it will take quite a while for the cave to fall in.

## Karst Areas by Peter Ortegel

Karst areas are formed by carbonic acid eating away at the limestone, gypsum, and dolomite. Some of the things that it makes are caves, sinkholes, and underground streams. Sinkholes are caused by the carbonic acid eating away at the roof of the cave, so the roof collapses. Sinkholes are very interesting things to learn about. People shouldn't put dead animals, car bodies, and used oil because when it rains all of the stuff goes down to the water table and we drink that water.



## How to Make Sedimentary Rock Cookies by Amanda Ortega

A sedimentary rock has a lot of layers just like the cookies. The layers are made by mud, sand, and seashells; every year it just keeps on building up. How do they make a layer by rain and with lots of pressure.

**NOTE! THIS ACTIVITY MUST BE DONE UNDER ADULT SUPERVISION!**

You will need to gather these ingredients: ½ cup of butter, 1 ½ cups vanilla wafer crumbs, 1 (14oz) can sweetened condensed milk, 1 (12 oz) chocolate chips, 1 (16 oz) coconut shavings, 1 cup chopped nuts. You will also need 1 clear 13 in x 9 in baking pan, can opener, heat source, oven mitts.

Steps to follow:

1. Melt the butter in the baking pan.
2. Sprinkle crumbs over the butter.
3. Pour condensed milk evenly over the crumbs.
4. Layer the remaining ingredients evenly over the top.
5. Press down gently. Bake at 350 degrees F for 25-30 minutes.

## *ParKids Visit Frijole Ranch*



This is a picture of the Frijole Ranch House. It is located at the Frijole Ranch at Pine Springs. The Radar brothers lived here first, then the Smiths, and then the Kincaids. When the Smiths lived there they built a one room school-house, a post office, and a community center in their front yard since they were isolated from other groups. However loneliness on the ranches yielded to long trips to town and visits to neighbors. The Smiths raised 10 children at this home.

Noel and Lucille Kincaid moved in next. They raised three children. Angora goats was the major livestock business for the Kincaids. Noel Kincaid also managed the Guadalupe Mountain Ranch. J.C. Hunter Jr. was the owner of Guadalupe Mountain Ranch. Together they were partners in the livestock business. Frijole Ranch was the headquarters for Hunter and Kincaid. The Kincaids stayed at the Ranch House from 1943-1970.

“[The Frijole is] a clutch of stone, adobe, frame buildings, and high corrals around a spring of sweet water” Frank X. Talbert circa a 1967.

*By Sara Walker*

We were at Frijole Ranch on the trail and our leader Mr. David told us about a tree that was burned ten years ago the fire was caused by humans. Today if you go for a hike at Frijole Ranch you will see the tree stump with its burned marks. There are many many signs of the fire that happened ten years ago.

*By John Ramirez*



We went to Frijole Ranch which is at the Guadalupe Mountains. I learned about the three ecosystems. Which are desert, riparian, and woodland. We hiked up to the Smith Springs which is a riparian area. I like the riparian area because it was cool. There were tall trees for shade and plants and the spring. It is really important so the animals can go and drink from the spring.

*By Loren Weyerman*



## *ParKids Hike to Smith Springs*

On the second day of ParKids, we went to Smith Springs. This is a good example of a riparian area. A riparian area is defined as a place with some source of water. The water has gotten there through an aquifer. The funny part of this day was that at the beginning we were hiking a very hot, rocky, rough trail, and suddenly we were in a cool, green, moist area. It was like we were in a whole new place! After such a hike most people were tempted to put their feet in the water. The reason that they were not allowed to was because it would contaminate the only source of water for many of the animals in that area. Sometimes people do not realize some of the seemingly innocent actions people take can hurt the wilderness.



*By Erin Wittman*



This is a picture of a pool in Smith Springs. Water ran through limestone and collected in sandstone. Sandstone is permeable and has lots of pores. The water collected in these pores and formed several springs, one of which is Smith Springs. Water systems like this are called perched aquifers. Smith Springs is a perched aquifer. There are several springs and perched aquifers throughout Guadalupe National Park where Smith Springs is located. These springs provide water for desert wildlife.

*By Emily Peterson*

Juniper  
Cypress family  
Blows in wind  
Has a piney scent  
Conifer

*By Laura Powers*

### **Riddles** by Barbara Speed

1) I am long. I have no legs and I am diurnal and nocturnal. It depends on which kind I am. I am also poisonous. What am I?

2) I am either black with yellow stripes or yellow with black stripes, either one. My sting is very painful, but only the females are able to sting. What am I?

### *Answers to Riddles on page 2:*

- 1) Road runner
- 2) Burrowing owl
- 3) Scorpion

*Answers to Riddles (page 7): 1) rattlesnake 2) bee*



